



SALEM  
ACADEMY

## Find Your Place & Your People

### TIPS FOR APPLYING TO PRIVATE AND BOARDING SCHOOLS

Your goal in life is to be everything you can be. Little wonder you're exploring the possibilities of independent schools with day and boarding options. After all, these close-knit, purposeful communities are specifically tailored to empower and support you to rise to the challenge of your many ambitions.



## Find the school with room for what sets you apart

The right school is the school that's right for you. Post-graduation pathways and college credit offerings matter, but when choosing a private or boarding school, the most essential factor is your sense of belonging. An environment that motivates, inspires, challenges, and supports you will enable you to unlock your full potential.

### USE THE FOLLOWING TIPS TO NARROW DOWN YOUR SCHOOL SEARCH

#### ► Be sure to ask

Where are they now? Private and boarding schools strive to set their students up for life. Look into media mentions and post-graduation pathways to see whether the types of successes a school is fostering align with your own vision for the future. Talk to people in your network who have attended the school to gauge their experience.

#### ► Review staff and curriculum

Get to know the backgrounds of those in leadership positions, and take the time to explore class schedules, available subjects, and the extracurricular and service options provided at your shortlisted schools.

#### AT SALEM WE OFFER...

**60**  
College credit  
hours available

**20+**  
Student clubs  
and organizations

#### ► Go beyond Google

Google and ranking websites are a valuable starting point, but they don't provide the whole picture. Spend time on each school's website and social media to get a sense of how the school community operates. Most schools also provide catalogs and informational materials to help round out your research.

#### ► Consider day vs boarding

The question of whether a day or boarding school option is best is a personal one that depends on location, personality, and individual goals. Many schools offer both – allowing you to tailor your learning experience accordingly.

#### ► Explore right-fit schools

Each private or boarding school has its own unique ethos, approach, community, and campus. Consider what matters most to you in a school, then seek out schools that serve those needs.

## Make an impression on paper & in person

Applying to a private or boarding school is a lengthy but ultimately rewarding process. Be diligent about meeting each school's requirements, adhere to all deadlines, and ensure that you're putting your best foot forward at every step along the way.

### USE THE FOLLOWING TIPS TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR APPLICATION

#### ► Begin early and be mindful of deadlines

The private and boarding school application process is competitive and can involve many moving parts, including visits, interviews, and examinations. These – and associated deadlines – may vary from school to school. Request an application packet to ensure that you're meeting all requirements in a timely manner.

#### ► Schedule a visit

Information sessions and school visits are an opportunity to ensure that a school that seems perfect on paper is also the right fit in real life. Admission fairs, open houses, and personalized tours provide insight into the unique culture and experience your shortlisted schools have to offer. We recommend visiting your shortlisted schools more than once.

#### ► Prepare for tests

Many private and boarding schools require testing as part of the admissions process. Common tests include the Secondary School Admission Test (SSAT), the Independent School Entrance Examination (ISEE), as well as the PSAT, the SAT, and the ACT. International students may be asked to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Confirm testing requirements with your prospective school to ensure that you're fully prepared.

#### ► Explore aid options

A private or boarding school education is a powerful investment in the future. If you have financial questions for a prospective school, contact their Financial Aid Office to inquire about needs-based financial aid, merit scholarships, tuition loan and financing programs, or tuition payment programs.

#### ► Narrow down the field

Apply to the schools that are the best fit for you, but be mindful that private and boarding schools have limited places and an exceptional pool of applicants to draw upon. While you may be lucky enough to receive that "Accepted" verdict right away, having other applications out puts you in a strong position in the event that you receive a waitlist or denial response.

#### AT SALEM WE OFFER...

**88%**  
Faculty with  
advanced degrees

**6:1**  
Student to  
teacher ratio

Private and boarding schools are known for  
their carefully honed missions, small class sizes,  
and robust academic reputations, and the  
admissions process can be selective.



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If Salem Academy is on your shortlist of private or boarding schools, we invite you to attend an upcoming Open House, or to speak with our Office of Admissions on (336) 721-2643 or via [academy@salem.edu](mailto:academy@salem.edu).

REGISTER NOW